

## Kentucky Public Health Initiative

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### What is the Kentucky Public Health Initiative?

The initiative will create an online, modularized public health curricula that can be accessed by graduate students across the Commonwealth, and by the public health workforce professional development participants presently employed throughout the Commonwealth. Providing assistance with online, instructional design, increased accessibility, and utilization of the curricula or portions of it are costly, but faculty at each of the institutions involved are working diligently with the Kentucky Department of Public Health (KDPH) to provide training opportunities to increase the number of public health workers in a state where the need is so very urgent. Funds also will support development of collaborative research efforts to address the health needs of Kentuckians. The initiative calls for a collaborative research agenda enhancing opportunities to secure extramural funding.

### Why is it important that Kentucky step up efforts to train health care workers?

Kentucky is a “sick” state with high morbidity and mortality rates in cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes – illnesses that with proper education and prevention interventions could be reduced substantially. The state’s public health workforce is minimally trained in the public health core curricula. KDPH is a major partner in this education and research initiative.

### Will this program encourage partnerships among education providers and other organizations?

The four postsecondary institutions (UK, UofL, ECU, and WKU) and KDPH have worked in collaboration to develop the initiative to ensure a much needed public health trained workforce. All of the institutions, their deans, faculty, and the KDPH administrators and professional development trainers are working jointly to bring the plan to fruition. In addition to these programs, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, which provides many of the diploma and certificate training programs for the public health workforce, is a partner in the discussions to enhance all nursing and allied health professional pipeline learning. Educational institutions, partnering with existing healthcare facilities for experiential training opportunities, will further the health care institutions’ participation in preparing tomorrow’s public health workforce.



Photo source: KCTCS

### What is the Council’s request?

The Council seeks \$500,000 of recurring funds in 2006-07 to support the initiative.

*One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky’s People*